



Testimony Before Labor and Public Employees Committee  
**Testimony in Support of SB 422, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESSENTIAL WORKERS COVID-19 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Kiley Gosselin  
Executive Director  
Partnership for Strong Communities

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Cabrera, Representative Sanchez, Senator Sampson, Representative Arora, and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, my name is Kiley Gosselin, and I am the Executive Director at the Partnership for Strong Communities (PSC). We are a statewide nonprofit policy and advocacy organization dedicated to ending homelessness, expanding affordable housing, and building strong communities in Connecticut. PSC staffs and manages both the statewide Reaching Home Campaign to prevent end homelessness in Connecticut and the HOMEConnecticut Campaign to ensure that all Connecticut residents have access to a range of affordable housing choices in all communities. Each campaign brings together over 100 state and non-profit partners to identify and implement data-driven policy solutions and prepare [consensus legislative agendas](#).

**Thank for you the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 422.** The Connecticut Essential Worker COVID-19 Assistance Fund provides assistance to support the critical workforce that helped keep the state operational during the pandemic. We strongly support the bill's inclusion of the frontline homeless response workers that work tirelessly to protect our most vulnerable community members prior to and during the COVID-19 crisis.

Frontline homeless response workers provided essential public health services during the pandemic including shelter services, moving people to permanent housing, coordinated testing and vaccination, and arranging for quarantine spaces when necessary. Their efforts protected people experiencing homelessness from COVID, at times at the expense of their health and wellbeing. These essential workers, disproportionately people of color, willingly stepped to protect others and should absolutely be able to access support from the Essential Worker COVID-19 Assistance Fund.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting the people who work to end homelessness in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Kiley Gosselin  
Executive Director  
Partnership for Strong Communities

